

THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS

(Incorporated.)
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN FLORIDA.

Educational prospects were never brighter in Florida than they are today. The schools and colleges have all begun work of the new year under the most favorable auspices. Cities and towns and rural districts are vying with one another in the erection of comfortable school buildings, equipment in furniture, apparatus and libraries, and in the securing of better teachers. Standards are being raised, courses of study meeting modern needs and conditions are being devised, physical culture programs are being carried out successfully, domestic science and manual training are being recognized as coordinate in value with academic studies, and agriculture, horticulture and farm life generally are finding a prominent place in the daily school duties.

In these magnificent onward movements DeSoto county stands a leader. Three years steady, consistent progress have placed us in a commanding position among the most progressive counties in the state. Constructive genius, honest business policies, close study of educational problems and dynamic energy explains how Superintendent J. O. Bickley and board members F. B. McClelland, S. B. Hozan and H. A. Ware have developed the splendid system of public schools we have today.

With the completion of the brick buildings now in course of erection, the value of this item of school property will have increased over \$200,000; equipment to the value of \$200,000 has been installed; libraries have been provided for practically every school in the county; home economics, with fine libraries, have been established in seven schools situated in strategic centers; five fully equipped manual training departments have been organized; salaries of the teachers increased from 10 to 20 per cent; approximately 60 per cent. of the teachers are graduates or graduate students of standard colleges and normal schools; high school opportunities offered every country child finishing the eighth by providing financial aid for payment of transportation or board; the school term lengthened to an average of seven months, and the county adoption of the local option compulsory education law, make a brief epitome of the works these school officers have credited to their account. At the close of the present school year the school fund was not merely free from debt, but a small balance was on hand to begin the business of the new year.

Recognizing the value of uniformity in the work of the schools, Superintendent Bickley has prepared a syllabus and course of study which will furnish a basis for a closer and more efficient direction and supervision of the county schools. We have examined the course and find that it more nearly meets the demands of modern educationists than any course we have reviewed. It emphasizes the practical in education, but not to the detriment of the cultural values. With this one contribution Prof. Bickley has added one hundred per cent. to the efficiency of the school work in DeSoto county.

We would recommend that the state department of education make a critical review of Bickley's syllabus with a view to its adoption as a course of study for the elementary schools of the state.

SWEDEN AND THE ENTENTE POWERS.

The entente powers seem to have met their match among the neutrals in Sweden, who is remaining firm in her determination to stand for her neutral rights, even if it should mean a break with them. Numerous quarrels have taken place between them since the outbreak of the war; the entente charging that Sweden was

not neutral, but was assisting Germany in every way she could without resorting to arms; while Sweden has time and again protested against the unwarranted interference with neutral trade and the mails by the allies.

The situation has now reached its most acute stage, and a break between them may be the result. Great confidence is expressed in England, however, in the tact and ability of Sir Esmech Howard, British minister to Sweden, to handle Great Britain's interests and keep Skeden pacified. Sweden is known to sympathize with the Germans, and has never bowed to England in her interference with neutral trade, as has some of the other neutrals.

The entente will do well to keep Sweden in a friendly mood, if possible. We have no doubt but that England has gone too far with her interference with neutral mails and shipping. Her accusations against Sweden of unneutral conduct may be with good foundation, but as long as she takes the attitude she has towards neutral commerce, they will not be deaf ears. It is an old maxim of equity that "He that comes to a court of equity must come with clean hands." If England would expect neutral conduct on the part of the neutral countries, she must keep within the bounds of law in dealing with neutrals. We hope that Sweden will remain neutral, for to add her strength to that of the central powers would be merely to prolong the war. England can afford to comply with Sweden's demand in regard to neutral shipping. In order to keep her from entering the war, while Sweden's sympathies are Teutonic, we do not believe she will expose herself to the ravages of war in behalf of the central powers if she can secure justice from England and freedom for her trade.

TEACHERS.

The action of the school board in offering vacancies in the teaching corps of the public schools to residents of this city before seeking elsewhere for applicants is to be commended.

The graduates of the schools of the city and county are entitled to first chance at any of the positions they may be able to fill, and the school board is doing the proper thing in giving them employment wherever possible and practicable.

Such a policy is not only an inducement for students to complete the high school course and plan for higher education, but it will attract more desirable recruits to the teaching profession by assuring those who would enter the field that once they have made sufficient preparation they will not be forced to go away from home to seek employment.—Hartford City Times-Gazette.

No better advice as a general proposition can be given than the above. Yet there are many who think in order to get the best teachers they must be imported. We have lived long enough and in enough different communities, to find out that folks are just folks, and that none are better than our home folks. Therefore if there is any pie to be handed out, let's offer it to the home folks, these sons and daughters whose tax money has made it possible for those sons and daughters to grow up in our own community under as favorable conditions as elsewhere. Stand by your home people, when they deserve it and they usually do.

So far as we know no one is against the Arcadia Merchants' Band, but of one fact we are sure, and that is, many of you do not appreciate it as much as you should, else you would help it more. The band is a good one, and rapidly improving under the excellent instructions of Prof. Shebe. The band is a great asset to the city, and should meet with every encouragement. The band needs money to pay certain expenses. Send the treasurer a small check at least once a month, just as a number

do regularly. The band actually needs from \$80 to \$75 a month for its ordinary expenses, and you should esteem it a privilege to pay from 50 cents to \$1 a month on this. Does it whether you are solicited or not.

The Tampa Tribune tells of two young girls aged thirteen and fifteen, sisters, who had come from Zephyrhills and were enticed into a house of ill repute by four young men. The article then tells of the arrest of these young men and later of the forfeiture of bonds of \$25 each, as they failed to appear in court. Does that kind of punishment represent the limit of our law in such an offense? If so, the next legislature should remedy the matter. We would pass a law that such young scoundrels should be punished by death. The crime committed by the Homestead bank robbers pales into insignificance when compared with this.

From all indications this winter will be the greatest tourist season the state has ever known. The various tourist towns are making such preparation as will enable them to take care of the overflow that they feel is sure to come. Many are already coming for people of the north are just beginning to realize that it is not a matter of comfort only, but one of health and prolonged life. When they know the whole truth, the state will be literally overrun from October until May.

The bones of a prehistoric dinosaur, supposed to have lived during the cretaceous period, were found some time ago among the rocks in Alberta, Canada. Although hardly a piece was missing, considerable difficulty was experienced in putting the bones together. The skeleton measures seventeen feet in length and has a five foot skull. In the mouth are sixty teeth, thirty on each jaw. It now stands mounted in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Some say the farm loan banks will be no good to the farmer. There it goes again, always "a knocking." What good did that little effusion do you, anyway? When the farmer gets a long time loan at 6 per cent., whereas he is now paying 10 per cent., the only way you can resist to yourself with your customers will be by saying "money is not a good thing for farmers to have, anyway." It makes 'em too extravagant.

The Arizona Gazette, of Phoenix, Arizona, says, "Never before in the entire history of the country has there been a legislative session of congress comparable to the last one in the amount of really constructive legislation enacted. Legislation that, for good or ill, is bound to have a decided and very real effect on the business and social conditions obtaining throughout the nation."

We were very glad, indeed, to see the supreme court let the two Pensacola newspaper men off so easily. The court had nothing personal against these gentlemen, and so stated, but felt that it must make known to the public that there is such a thing as contempt. Our advice is that others do not press this matter too hard in the future.

We have been looking over the Clearwater Sun more diligently than ever since this splendid paper was accused of being boastful, and was also so nearly convicted by a number of our valued exchanges. We would like to say in this connection: If this paper is not the best, as claimed, then where is there a better one?

Said we wouldn't say anything more about Knott-Catts, but just can't help it. Just enough good high priced white paper left to say, "Mighty glad Catts got the 69 votes in precinct No. 3, Alachua county." These votes were intended for him, and they should not be taken from him. We have never believed for a moment that they would be.

We've quit talking about the Knott-Catts affair. The people grew tired of it and to be frank, we got tired, too. All things considered, however, the opposition by the republicans and the independents, together with our pledge on June 6th, we shall support the nominee, even if we have to slip in at the back door to vote.

There are at least three papers of the state, and all of them are good ones, that now uniformly say "Florida" instead of "Floridian." These papers are the Kissimmee Valley Gazette, the Tampa Times and the Arcadia News. There are others that do so now and then, but not uniformly. "Come in, the water's fine."

A Columbus, Indiana, man wants a divorce because his wife won't talk to him. Maybe so, but he'll never mend the plea and ask for a divorce because she won't talk.

The Atlanta Constitution in speaking of blind tigers, says they are those who employ "surreptitious and illegal methods of purveying and dealing in alcoholic liquors in contravention of the state prohibition laws." That's just what we think about it. Give it to 'em!

George W. Allen, the republican nominee for governor of Florida, is said to be planning for receptions, dances, etc., at the mansion in Tallahassee. George, things are in bad shape among the democrats, but for a that, and a' that, it is not as bad as you appear to think, George.

The Hartford Post says that an elephant that killed its keeper in Tennessee a few days ago was hung to death. The post then wonders if the elephant knew the reason for the "rope party." Our wonder is, how they got the rope to stay around the thing's head.

A report from the department of commerce states France wants to import yarns from this country. We are willing to put the American reporter and correspondent up against any in the world, and hope the desire of the French republic will be gratified.

Miami is to be congratulated in the success of the new booklet issued by the Chamber of Commerce. The following telegram just received by this body from Carl G. Fisher speaks volumes: "Your folder is a beauty. I'll take 2,000 copies."

Food prices in London average about 61 per cent. higher than before the war, and the only consolation the Londoners can get is that they think their enemies are even in worse condition than this. What a consolation!

A news item says a man who claims the name of Robinson Crusoe has been arrested for robbing the home of another man named Elisha DePoe. The article did not say why whether Elisha is a brother of Daniel.

How is this for the end of the war? A German witness said that according to the present rate at which the French and English are driving the Germans back, they will be driven back to Germany in just 108 years.

The Detroit Press suggests that notwithstanding the fact that there will be no freak styles in men's clothes this year yet there will be the usual number of freaks in men's clothes.

When are you going to pay over that dollar or two to the campaign fund committee? Don't put it off much longer if you expect for it to do any good.

It may be that the fellow who is so well satisfied with himself is not very well acquainted with the gentleman.

An exchange tells of the devotion of an Atchison woman to her pastor to such an extent that she actually solicits marrying jobs for him.

A leading editor has suggested the thought that it would be a sad catastrophe for Germany if little Belgium should go broke.

Miss Ida Tarbell says Colonel Roosevelt is out of date. This seems to be the unkindest cut of them all.

As the school girl would say, "This weather is just too sweet for anything."

OUR BAND.

Arcadia has one of the best bands to be found in this section of the state, and the boys are making rapid progress in their musical efforts under the efficient instruction of Prof. Shebe. The band, however, is not receiving either the financial or moral support from the citizens to which it is justly entitled. Prof. Shebe is an indefatigable worker, even in the face of great difficulties, but unless there is a greater manifestation of interest upon the part of the citizens, he may become discouraged. We trust this may never be the case, for it would be a calamity to the city for Prof. Shebe to throw down this work that has already meant so much, and which has such great possibilities.

Captain George Lynch, principal of the DeSoto County High School, and the editor of the News were out to hear the band practice at the armory last night, and while there each made a short address of encouragement and appreciation of the efforts that are being made by this splendid array of talented musicians. We hope that every member of the Commercial Club, every citizen, in fact, may be willing and glad of the privilege of giving both moral and financial support to these young people, in their efforts to make the very best band to be found in the state. WE JUST MUST DO IT!

TOURISTS ARE COMING BY THE THOUSANDS. DO WE WANT ANY OF THEM IN ARCADIA? IF SO, LET'S FIND A WAY TO LET THEM KNOW.

According to the reports from all sources, the present winter is expected to be the greatest tourist year ever known in the history of the state, not even excepting the one last year which made a new record for the state.

The cities and towns of the state that cater to this tourist trade can not get busy too soon. The railroads have already become alive to the situation, and it is now up to the hotel people and the commercial bodies to make known to these winter visitors that they are wanted, and to show them that they have facilities for making them comfortable upon arrival.

Each city that makes any pretensions towards being able to care for winter tourists and home seekers should have a printed list of all the hotels and boarding houses, giving rates, capacity, etc. The commercial bodies of the cities can not afford to even invite them unless the visitors are apprised in advance of the true situation.

The private families who are willing to take boarders during the winter should either advertise this fact in the local papers, or furnish their names to the Commercial Club, indicating how many persons they can take and what accommodations can be given, together with rate.

Those who have rooms that could be let for light housekeeping should do the same. Let us have some definite plans of action in case we have any desire to encourage visitors and home seekers to our city this winter.

We would further suggest that the Commercial Club at its next meeting shall appoint a committee to see that the details pertaining to this matter be worked out. Find out what our citizens are willing to offer, and then let's find some way to convey this intelligence to the people who are expecting to come this winter. "Where there is a will there is a way." A complete organization for such a purpose should be perfected, and we know of no better work to which the commercial body can turn its attention.

SHERIFF AND DEPUTIES MAKE BIG HAUL.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Sheriff Dishong and Deputy Sheriffs Carlton, Garner and J. H. Lipson, of Punta Gorda, left last Tuesday in two automobiles for Lakeport, on the southwestern side of Lake Okeechobee, armed with warrants for the arrest of E. T. Stokes, D. W. Stokes, G. K. Stokes and G. E. Stokes, for assault with intent to

murder W. W. King, a farmer. On their arrival at that place they chartered a boat and proceeded north to near where the Kissimmee river empties into the lake. All the men implicated are fishermen on the lake. The sheriff found the house occupied by Mr. King riddled with bullets, where they had shot high powered rifles from the lake. When the sheriff and his deputies arrived at the place, they effected the capture of these men by strategy, and as the men did not know that the sheriff and his deputies were within sixty miles of there, they were captured without much difficulty.

While in that vicinity the sheriff made inquiries concerning Albert Kurtz, who was charged with stealing a boat at Cleveland some time ago, the boat being rigged with a full fishing outfit, and was very valuable addition to his fishing tackle. The sheriff located his man and arrested him. When arrested he told where the boat was. Mr. Dishong sent after the boat immediately and towed it to Lakeport, where it will be in safe keeping until J. L. Barrett, the owner, can get it. Kurtz plead guilty and will be held over to the circuit court.

On this trip the sheriff and deputies captured six men wanted by the law. Mr. Dishong stated to a News reporter that the fishermen and all other citizens of that prosperous country near Lakeport treated him with the utmost courtesy and consideration.

Some editors try to be funny and get away with it. Others try it and—well, how do you class this one from the Topeka (Kansas) Capital?

"It was stated a day or two ago that if Topeka were forced to depend on its present supply of coffins by reason of the strike, it would be impossible to bury any one after two weeks. The danger is obviated now, and if you were planning to die you can go ahead and do it without fear of littering up the town."

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Maintain Vitality of Trees

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—AND—

TREBLE YOUR YIELD OF FIRST-GRADE FRUIT

BY USING

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This oil-emulsion is unsurpassed in its destruction of these pests. Eradicate the Mealy Bug and Cottony Cushion Scale with our Special. The price of the sprays is the same; 30 cents per gallon in 25 gallon lots and 32 cents in one gallon lots; 27 cents per gallon in 3-barrel lots, 28 cents in 50-gallon lots, f. o. b. Apopka.

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